

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/458,820

Applicant(s)

DONG, WUPING

Examiner

Natalie A. Pass

Art Unit

3626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Appeal Brief filed 19 September 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant

1. This communication is in response to the Appeal Brief filed 19 September 2007. Claims 1-6 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Upon further consideration, and further in view of Applicant's most recent remarks in the Appeal Brief filed 19 September 2007, claims 1-6 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-6 are directed towards booking and issuing a reserved travel ticket by a user using a personal computer and a local area network and an issuing terminal that is connected to an external reservations system. During the booking process a user at a personal computer connected to a net server on a local area network requests a ticket booking to the net server. The net server sends home page addresses (URLs) of the external reservation systems to the personal computer via the local area network; the URLs are stored and displayed on the personal computer. The user selects a URL of an external reservation system, then connects via the Internet to a website of the external reservation system and completes a booking through the website of the external reservation system without the aid of the net server. The user then sends the booking data to the network server, which sends it to an issuing terminal connected to external reservation systems. The issuing terminal issues the booked ticket after communicating with the selected external reservation system

3. While the closest prior art of record, Schoolery et al., (U.S. Patent 5, 570,283) discloses a user communicating regarding a booking from a personal computer over a local area network and the Internet to an external reservation systems and addressing a user's ticket booking commencement request to a net server from the personal computer, it fails to disclose or fairly suggest completing a booking through the website provided by the selected external reservation system without the aid of a net server. It also fails to teach the net server sending home page addresses (URLs) of the external reservation systems to the personal computer via the local area network;

4. The Bloch article, "The Impact of Electronic Commerce on the Travel Industry" June 1996, teaches allowing buyers and sellers to communicate directly over the Internet and teaches consumers having direct access to reservation networks through a personal computer but fails to teach the particular combination of elements and functions as described above.

5. In addition, Garback (U.S. Patent 5,237,499), teaches a computerized travel planning system including a consumer connecting with a personal computer to an airline reservation system accessed with a modem over a wide area network, but fails to teach the particular combination of elements and functions as described above. Therefore, the claims distinguish over the prior art.

6. Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement for Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Natalie A. Pass whose telephone number is (571) 272-6774. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 6:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas, can be reached at (571) 272-6776. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Natalie A. Pass

November 20, 2007



C. LUKE GILLIGAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600